



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management  
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## **For Immediate Release**

Sept. 18, 2001 pat0918.rel

## **For Additional Information**

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### **BLM Deeds 181 Acres to Las Cruces Public Schools**

LAS CRUCES – The Bureau of Land Management today deeded more than 180 of public land to the Las Cruces Public School District, according to Amy Lueders, BLM-Las Cruces field office manager.

The 181 acres transferred today include five school sites in and near Las Cruces that the school district previously had been leasing for \$2 an acre from the BLM.

The schools, acreage transferred today and beginning lease date for each site include:

- Sunrise Elementary, 13 acres, Aug. 9, 1988;
- Cesar Chavez Elementary School, 30 acres, Oct. 20, 1998;
- Desert Hills Elementary, 42 acres, Aug. 3, 1990;
- Oate High School, 50 acres, Nov. 22, 1991, and
- Camino Real Middle School, 46 acres, April 23, 1996.

The Recreation and Public Purpose Act of 1994 allows the BLM to lease lands to state or local governments, and – once the property has been fully developed – to sell the land for \$10 an acre. The 181 acres transferred today are valued at more than \$360,000, according to Lueders.

"During the past 13 years, the school district enrolled 3,700 additional students, and it was critical to build new schools to keep up with the growing student population," said Superintendent Virginia Foltz. "The partnership with the BLM helped make it possible to construct new facilities for our community. These school sites were particularly important since the East Mesa is where most of our growth was taking place."

More than 4,200 students are enrolled at the five schools, valued at \$45 million, according to school officials.